Calendar No. 772

97TH CONGRESS 2d Session } SENATE { REPORT No. 97-534

DESIGNATING THE MARY McLEOD BETHUNE COUNCIL HOUSE AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

AUGUST 19 (legislative day, AUGUST 17), 1982.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. McCLURE, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 2436]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, to which was referred the bill (S. 2436) to designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with amendments and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

1. On page 4, delete all of lines 3 through 8 and insert in lieu thereof:

> the Secretary will provide technical assistance to mark, restore, interpret, operate, and maintain the historic site and may also include provisions by which the Secretary will provide financial assistance to mark, interpret, and restore the historic site (including the making of preservation-related capital improvements and repairs but not including other routine operations). Such agreement may also contain provisions that—

2. On page 5, after line 4, add a new section 5 as follows:

> SEC. 5. Beginning after September 30, 1983, there is authorized to be appropriated $100,000 to provide financial assistance under Section 3 of this Act. There is also authorized to be appropriated for purposes of making grants to the National Council of Negro Women for purposes of this Act an additional $100,000 to be provided, as may be agreed to by the Secretary of the Interior and the National Council, on a 50–50 matching basis to the extent that funds or services are contributed by the National Council for such purposes. Sums authorized to be appropriated under this section shall remain available until expended.

S313-38

PURPOSE

S. 2436, as introduced, would designate the Council House as a national historic site. The bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with the National Council of Negro Women. The agreements may include provisions by which the Secretary will provide assistance to the National Council of Negro Women to mark, interpret and maintain the site and to provide technical and financial assistance to the Council to preserve the site and to interpret the history of black women in America.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The last official residence of Mary McLeod Bethune, the renowned educator and national political leader, was the "Council House" located at 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Bethune was the founder and president of Bethune-Cookman College, Florida and the National Council of Negro Women, and was appointed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt as Director of the Division of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration in Washington, D.C.

From 1943 to 1949, Mrs. Bethune was in residence at the Council House. Her home was where she directed activities that brought her national and international recognition. The Council House served as the first national headquarters of the National Council of Negro Women. Some of the most prominent national and international figures of the 1940's and 1950's, including Charles Drew, Madame Pandit of India, President Tubman of Liberia, Ralph Bunche, and Eleanor Roosevelt were received and entertained at her home.

Today, Council House remains in the ownership of the National Council of Negro Women. Within the house is the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Museum and the National Archives for Black Women's History. The archives houses the largest extant manuscript collection of materials pertaining to black women and their organizations, and contains extensive correspondence, photographs and memorabilia relating to Mrs. Bethune. Materials, artifacts, clothing, etc., which document the history of the black community and black women are actively collected by the museum and archives.

Although the National Council of Negro Women has accomplished extensive restoration and interpretation of the site, including the museum and archives, legislation is needed to assure its continued preservation and use and to provide national recognition for the outstanding work of Mary McLeod Bethune.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 2436 was introduced by Senator Warner on April 27, 1982. The Public Lands and Reserved Water Subcommittee received testimony on S. 2436 on July 2, 1982. S. 2436 is comparable to H.R. 6091, which was ordered reported favorably by the House Interior Committee on June 23, 1982 and passed the House on August 2, 1982. The administration opposes the enactment of S. 2436 in testimony given before the Subcommittee. At a business session on August 13, 1982, the Energy and Natural Resources Committee ordered S. 2436 favorably reported as amended.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on August 13, 1982 by unanimous vote of a quorum present recommended that the Senate pass S. 2436, if amended, as described herein.

The rollcall vote on reporting the measure was 18 yeas, no nays as follows:

YEAS	NAYS
McClure	
Hatfield [1]	
Weicker [1]	
Domenici	
Wallop [1]	
Warner	
Humphrey	
Murkowski	
Nickles	
East	
Heinz	
Jackson	
Johnston	
Ford	
Matsunaga [1]	
Melcher [1]	
Tsongas	
Bradley	

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

During consideration of S. 2436, the Committee adopted two amendments.

Amendment No. 1 clarifies and restricts the Secretary's authority to provide assistance to the National Council of Negro Women for the management of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House as a national historic site.

S. 2436, as introduced, provided the Secretary with the authority to provide assistance to mark, interpret, restore and maintain the site. The amendment limits and directs the Secretary to provide technical assistance to mark, restore, interpret, operate and maintain the site, and gives the Secretary discretion in the cooperative agreement to provide financial assistance to mark, interpret and restore the site including making capital improvements that are preservation related. The Secretary is not authorized to provide financial assistance for routine operations of the Council House, the museum or the archives.

Amendment No. 2 adds a new Section 5 which authorizes an appropriation of $100,000, effective after September 30, 1983, for the financial assistance authorized under Section 3 of the bill. Additional authorization is given for an appropriation to make a grant to the National Council of Negro Women on a 50–50 matching basis, subject to the restrictions and contributions of the cooperative agreements under Section 3.

[1] Indicates voted by proxy.

The Committee notes that the site will become an affiliated area of the National Parks System if the legislation is enacted. No acquisition of land or property is contemplated by the legislation. The Committee expects routine operation and maintenance to be the responsibility of the Council.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATION

The following estimate of costs of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, D.C., August 18, 1982.

Hon. JAMES A. MCCLURE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to Section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 2436, a bill to designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, August 13, 1982.

The bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into a cooperative agreement with the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) to preserve the site. A $100,000 appropriation is authorized, beginning in fiscal year 1984 for restoring, marking and interpreting the site. An additional $100,000 is authorized to be appropriated beginning in fiscal year 1984 on a 50–50 matching grant basis to the NCNW for ongoing restoration work. Assuming the entire authorization is appropriated for fiscal year 1984, it is expected that all funds will be expended during that fiscal year, since restoration work is already in progress.

The bill also authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to provide technical assistance to the NCNW as needed for restoration, maintenance and operation of the site. While the bill does not specifically authorize the appropriation of funds for this purpose, it is expected that ongoing technical assistance could cost the National Park Service approximately $10,000 to $20,000 per year. Estimates are based on information provided by the National Park Service.

Should the Committee so desire, we would be pleased to provide further details on this estimate.

Sincerely,

ALICE M. RIVLIN, *Director.*

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of the Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 2436 as amended.

S. 2436 is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses. S. 2436 would designate the

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, D.C. as a national historic site and direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements with the National Council of Negro Women to provide technical and financial assistance to assure its continued preservation, maintenance and interpretation.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact on personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 2436.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The pertinent legislative reports and communications received by the Committee from the Department of the Interior setting forth Executive agency recommendations relating to S. 2436 are set forth below:

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., August 19, 1982.

Hon. JAMES A. MCCLURE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Your Committee has requested the views of this Department of S. 2436, a bill "To designate the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House in Washington, District of Columbia, as a national historic site, and for other purposes."

The Administration strongly supports the enactment of this legislation.

S. 2436 provides that the Secretary of the Interior enter into agreements with the National Council of Negro Women for the interpretation, restoration and maintenance of the Bethune Council House site. Because the Council will retain fee title to the property, the site will not become part of the Federal estate in the traditional sense. While we originally had some concerns about the nature of the technical and financial agreements, these concerns have since been alleviated as a result of further study and discussion. We wholeheartedly support recognition of Mary McLeod Bethune, an important leader of black women, and we anticipate that this designation will allow us to work more closely with her supporters than we have been able to do in the past.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

JAMES G. WATT, *Secretary.*

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by the bill S. 2436 as reported.

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